Claim Amendments and Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claim 20 and amend claims 4, 7-12 and 21 so that the claims read as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing detergents or detergent components as a product in granulate or agglomerate form on a dry basis in an essentially horizontally oriented fluidized bed, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a multi-stage fluidized bed for performing different process steps selected from heating, agglomeration, coating, drying, and cooling for manufacturing the product;

(b) supplying solid powdered starting material to the fluidized bed in a fluidizing space;

(c) supplying process air to the different process steps from beneath the fluidizing space, wherein a different process air stream is provided to the fluidizing space by each of at least two chambers in an air inflow area beneath the fluidizing space;

(d) supplying material components comprising a binder and/or water ~~selected from a binder, water and/or one or more other materials~~ to the solid starting material in the fluidizing space;

(e) fluidizing the starting material and material components in the fluidizing space to form a solid mixture comprising granulates or agglomerates of homogenous composition;

(f) reducing a flow speed of the process air in an expansion zone located above the fluidizing space, such that particles entrained in the process air from the fluidizing space are pre-separated and returned to the fluidizing space; and

(g) separating process dust with a dedusting mechanism adjoining above the expansion zone.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the at least two chambers are arranged one after another in a horizontal direction of the fluidized bed to provide the different process air streams sequentially to the fluidizing space.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the starting material is supplied at one end of the fluidizing space and the granulates or agglomerates of homogenous composition are discharged from an opposite end of the fluidizing space, such that some of the different process steps are performed sequentially in the horizontal direction.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 4, wherein a first chamber provides process air at a temperature of about 20° C up to a decomposition temperature of individual components of the product for agglomeration of the product, and a second process chamber provides process air at a temperature of about -20° C to ~~30° C~~ +30° C for ~~colling~~ cooling the agglomerated product.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 4, wherein the material components supplied in step (d) are supplied by a spray or injection system.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, wherein the material components supplied in step (d) are supplied in a spray medium comprising up to 100% dry material.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, wherein the material components supplied in step (d) are supplied over an entire process range.

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 4, wherein the material components supplied in step (d) are supplied in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions and melts.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 4, wherein the material components supplied in step (d) are supplied from above the fluidizing space.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the expansion zone is formed by cross-sectional widenings of the fluidized bed.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the dedusting mechanism of step (g) is in an integrated filter system.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the process dust separated in step (g) is returned to the fluidizing space.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the fluidizing space is separated from the chambers in the air inflow area by an air distribution plate.

17. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the different process air streams exit the fluidized bed as one exhaust gas stream.

18. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the product comprises about 1 to 35% binder including moisture.

19. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein supplying the starting material to and discharging the product from the fluidized bed are performed under pressure seal from the environment.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 4 ~~20~~, wherein the product is a finished product. –